

Remarks:

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Applicant notes that the Examiner has accepted the original drawings filed on July 13, 2000.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant notes that the Examiner has initialed the entries in the Information Disclosure Statement filed Oct. 6, 2000.

Specification

Applicant has amended the specification to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. This amendment to the specification does not add new matter.

Status of Claims

Claims 1 – 24 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 24 are objected to. Claims 1, 4, 16 – 18, and 23 – 24 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1, 4, 16 – 18, and 23 – 24 do not add new matter.

Voluntary Claim Amendments

Claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 15, thus providing antecedent basis to the phrase “said first threshold” and correcting an inadvertent typographical error.

Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 15, thus correcting an inadvertent typographical error.

Claim 18 has been amended to recite “said second threshold” instead of “said first threshold”, thus correcting an inadvertent typographical error.

Claim Objections – 37 CFR 1.75(a)

Claims 1 – 24 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) for not pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “said square groupings” instead of “said x-shaped groupings”, thus curing the objection.

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Claim 4 has been amended to recite "a size of said sub-image" instead of "said sub-image size", thus curing the objection.

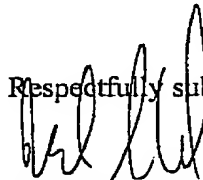
Claim 23 has been amended to recite "a pixel Z" instead of "said pixel Z", thus curing the objection.

Claim 24 has been amended to recite "said diamond-shaped grouping" instead of "said diamond grouping", thus curing the objection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "diamond-shaped groupings" instead of "at least partly diamond-shaped groupings", thus providing clear antecedent basis for all subsequent occurrences of "said diamond-shaped groupings" in claims 1, 21 and 22 and curing the objection.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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